

United States Senate

WASHINGTON DC 20540-1401

April 10, 2001

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



480999

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Governor Whitman:

I have enclosed a copy of a letter I received from The Honorable David L. Miller, Mayor, City of Elkhart, Indiana. Mayor Miller outlined for me his concerns about his work to address cleanup issues associated with a Superfund site in Elkhart.

I would very much appreciate a status update from the agency about this issue. I am interested in knowing what steps are necessary at the federal level to help Mayor Miller in his effort to make positive progress toward resolution of this issue. You may direct your reply to me, attention: Bob Healey.

Thank you for your assistance with this important matter.

Sincerely,


Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator

RGL/rhr
enclosure

cc: Mr. David A. Ullrich, Regional Administrator, EPA, Region V

City of Elkhart

The city with a heart

March 1, 2001

Senator Richard Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

First and foremost, I'd like to send greetings from Elkhart. I'd also like to personally invite you here to the city with a heart whenever you have an available opportunity.

David L. Miller
Mayor

Mayor's Office

Municipal Building
229 S. Second Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

Phone: 219 294 5471
Fax: 219 293 7964
City Access: 219.522.2177

As you know, Elkhart has a long and successful history as an industrial powerhouse. We continue to rank in the top 25 communities in the country when it comes to industrial growth and jobs. Unfortunately, in the past, certain industries have left or created areas commonly known as "brownfields."

I've reviewed the Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act of 2001, and I think it's a terrific bill. We currently have a situation in Elkhart where a developer wants to build a 12,000-seat concert amphitheater on a brownfield site. The land in question is known as the Himco Superfund Site. Unfortunately, the EPA has been "studying" the issue for over ten years. Last month we hosted a meeting between my staff, the developer, IDEM, and the EPA. We were very disappointed with the results. My staff left with the impression the EPA did not have a lot of interest in re-developing the Himco site anytime soon. Is there anything your office can do to help?

If we had the extra funds this bill would provide, the city could be more active in getting the land cleaned up. It would also send a pro-development message to some of the EPA's field officers. Most of all, it would put a huge piece of property back on the tax rolls, and bring needed tourist income to Elkhart.

Again, I urge you to support this bill. I also hope to see you here in Elkhart soon.

Sincerely,



Dave Miller
Mayor of Elkhart